

The Labour Organiser

No. 196

OCTOBER, 1937

Price 4d.

THE LEAGUE OF YOUTH

New days are in store for the Labour Party League of Youth. Following a discussion at the Labour Party Conference, in which Youth did not all the time speak with one voice, the National E.C. intimated acceptance of the following resolution:—

This Conference welcomes the Report of the National Executive Committee upon the future organisation of the League of Youth, but asks that a Conference of branches of the League of Youth be called at an early date for the purpose of

- (a) Electing representatives to serve upon the Advisory Committee.
- (b) To consider proposals for the future development of the League.
- (c) To consider and advise the National Executive Committee upon the preparation of a programme in line with the Party policy which would attract young people to the Labour Party.
- (d) To formulate proposals for the conduct of a National Campaign to increase membership and form branches of the League in every district possible.

The acceptance of the above resolution implies that there should now be an all-round endeavour to re-establish and strengthen League of Youth Branches throughout the country. The Conference which has been agreed to will consider proposals for the further development of the League, and the bone upon which the League of Youth split may be mended by the undertaking given in paragraph (c).

The anticipation in the fourth clause of a National Campaign to increase the membership and to form Branches of League of Youth should encourage all

those who have been despondent over this matter, and we profoundly trust that a new spirit is to enter into the relations of the Party and its youth—a spirit which should permeate both sides and lead to unprecedented healthiness and influence for youth within the Party.

Conduct of Local Elections A New Labour Guide

A new booklet by Mr. Harold Croft, which is intended as a guide for candidates, officials, and election workers in local elections, has been issued by the Labour Party and may be obtained from the Labour Publications Department, Transport House, Smith Square, S.W.1, price 1s.

The Guide, which is a comprehensive survey of the whole subject, deals with such matters as the management of elections, qualifications and disqualifications for Councillors, notes on Councils, the election of Councillors, nomination, the poll and the count, parish elections, election expenses, miscellaneous provisions, casual vacancies, corrupt and illegal practices and the election of Borough auditors.

"A challenging policy against reactionary forces," says Mr. Croft, "must be the keynote of local electioneering by Labour Parties. Where Labour has succeeded in establishing good representation on local Councils, the secret has been the persistent, courageous and organised electioneering on a real Labour programme at every election as it came round."

Our readers are advised to at once order supplies of this useful Guide.

Copies of our April, 1937, issue are urgently wanted. Will readers who have spare copies by them please send to the Editor. Full allowance will be made at price paid.

The Labour Party Scheme for Study and Examination

We understand that the Study Course Examinations on Organisation and Elections take place early in November.

The principal examiners are Mr. G. R. Shepherd, National Agent, Mr. W. Barefoot, President of the Agents' Union, together with deputy examiners Mr. H. Drinkwater, Mr. G. Morris, Mr. J. P. Connolly, Mr. W. Lewcock, Mr. C. C. Jones and Mr. H. Croft. Examinations are fixed for London, Saturday, Nov. 6th; Leeds, Nov. 6th; Cardiff, Nov. 6th; and Newcastle, Nov. 13th.

There will also be examinations at Bristol, Glasgow and Manchester on dates to be announced. A diploma will be awarded to entrants whose course work and examination are satisfactory to the examiners.

The Agents' Union Annual Conference

The Annual Conference of the National Union of Labour Organisers and Election Agents took place at Bournemouth on Sunday, October 3rd. There was an excellent attendance of members.

This Conference marked the coming of age of the Agents' Union (formerly the National Association of Labour Registration and Election Agents), and at the commencement a congratulatory telegram was read from Mr. Sam Hague, a former President of the Union, and now retired after a record length of service in the Party.

It was reported that life membership of the Union had been conferred on Mr. W. E. Morris on his retirement from the agency at Preston; Ald. Tom Ashworth, J.P., on retirement from his agency at Bradford; and Ald. D. B. Foster, of Leeds.

The Conference received with deepest regret the news of the death of Mr. Frank H. Edwards, a former active member of the Union, recently living in retirement, and a message of sympathy was directed to be sent to Mrs. Edwards.

A long and interesting agenda was gone through, and the following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—President, Coun. W. Barefoot, J.P. (Woolwich); Chairman, Mr. R. Stanton (Hackney Central); Vice-Chairman, Coun. H. E. Rogers (Bristol East); General Secretary, Mr. H. Drinkwater. Auditors, Coun. R. Montford, J.P., C.C. and C. C. Jones.



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ADDITIONAL CANDIDATURES ENDORSED BY N.E.C.

1st OCTOBER, 1937

ESSEX: Harwich.—Mr. Joseph Hewett, "Bryn Mel," Hillcrest Road, Lough-ton, Essex.

HANTS.: Portsmouth Central.—Mr. Peter R. Pain, "Loen," St. Catherine's Road, Frimley, Surrey; New Forest and Christchurch.—Mr. R. E. Gray, Victoria Cottage, Mudeford, Christchurch, Hants.

LANCS.: Oldham.—Mr. D. A. Mainds, 88, Medlock Road, Woodhouses, Ashton-under-Lyne.

LANCS.: Preston.—Mr. P. C. Hoffman, 38, Oakwood Road, London, N.W.11. Rossendale.—Mr. G. H. Walker, Exbury, Oxenholme Road, Kendal, Westmorland.

MIDDLESEX: Acton.—Mr. J. A. Sparks, 37, Allison Road, Acton, W.3; Wood Green.—Miss Dorothy Woodman, 34, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.

MIDDLESEX: Uxbridge.—Mr. W. Ayles, "Aylwin," Jail Lane, Biggin Hill, Kent.

WARWICK: Tamworth.—Miss Mary Gamble, "Grey Garth," Brant Broughton, Lincoln.

YORKS.: Hull, South West.—Mr. Ben Greene, Hall Cottage, Berkhamsted, Herts.

Sowerby.—Mr. C. H. Wilkinson, 242, Convamore Road, Grimsby.

SCOTLAND.

RENFREWSHIRE WEST.—Mr. D. Cleg-horn Thomson, 25, Dorset Square, London, N.W.1.

NEW PAMPHLETS

"Labour's Policy of Food for All," by the Rt. Hon. Tom Johnston, M.P. Price One Penny. The Labour Party.

Tom Johnston always was a fact-ist and this pamphlet bristles with facts. In particular the women of the Party should be interested.

"Labour's Aims," by the Rt. Hon. C. R. Atlee, M.P. Price One Penny. The Labour Party.

Clem Atlee has had a good press for his recent book. This penny pamphlet, however, is for the million and for those who want Labour's aims expressed in concise and handy form. Both the above pamphlets are in tinted covers, with the familiar features of both writers on the face. They should sell readily.

"Labour is Building a Better London." Price One Penny. London Labour Publications Ltd., 258/262, Westminster Bridge Road, London, S.E.1.

This is a companion booklet to "What Labour Has Done for London," a booklet which told the story of Labour's great achievements on the London County Council during three years of office, and which was published in the early part of the present year. The story of Labour's accomplishments on the Borough Councils is no less worthy, and no less well told with telling fact and illustration. This booklet should have a large national distribution and sale, apart from its special purpose and connection with the Metropolitan Borough elections.

A New Cure for the "Blues"

To be a "true blue" is the fond boast of many die-hard Tories, though strangely enough blue is the official Liberal colour in Worcestershire and some other areas—red having been long collared by the Tories.

Now along comes somebody who claims to have invented a new drug, Santonin, which it is stated eliminates blue from the spectrum. Its victims, it is stated, see everything yellow.

Sorry we are unable to supply our readers with further details, or name the source where wholesale supplies are to be obtained. Better stick to the older forms of conversion.

AGENCY.

The Frome Divisional Labour Party invites applications for the position of Constituency Agent.

The appointment, to take effect on and from January 1st, 1938, will be made in conjunction with the National Executive and the Prospective Candidate, and the national standards will apply.

Application forms may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary,

Mrs. CLARK,
50, High Street,
Midsomer Norton,
Nr. Bath, Somerset.

and must be returned, accompanied by copies of three testimonials, before Saturday, October 23rd.

FUND RAISERS

The large number of clients on our books increased by our advertisements through the media of the "Labour Organiser" proves the popularity of Football Competition Cards amongst members of the "Party."

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We note that in connection with the Metropolitan Borough Council elections a second issue of "Your London" has been made by the London Labour Party.

FRIENDS INDEED

By Claude Denscombe

Labour Agent, Reading.

How many Labour workers must have been struck from time to time by the amount of money required and work entailed by the round-about methods so often adopted by our Movement, and how many have said that it is impossible to get people to give directly for the Cause. To prove that IT IS POSSIBLE, may I briefly relate what has been done locally in this direction.

Reading Trades Council and Labour Party, despite its being one of the largest and most virile Parties in the country, occasionally strikes a bad patch. A year ago we found that the Party had a debt of £300 or so. Not so bad as it seems on an annual turnover of between £2,000 and £3,000, but bad enough to cause us some concern.

We started a scheme which we called "The Friends of the Reading Labour Party," the idea being to get "Friends" to contribute an extra and voluntary sum each week for a year, for the purpose of wiping out the debt. About 700 responded and their contributions varied from 2s. 6d. to 1d. per week. Now, at the end of the year, we find that the sum collected amounts to £255 and the total cost of cards, circulars, etc., to less than £5. Each contributor will receive a certificate and receipt combined.

We do not advocate such a scheme as a regular part of Party effort, but as a scheme with a definite short life and for a specific purpose.

May I also say that during the life of the scheme, our Annual Bazaar and other efforts continued, the Bazaar—chiefly worked by our women comrades—bringing in a profit of well over £200.

FOR SALE

"Parker's Election Agent and Returning Officer"; fourth edition; cost three guineas; will sell at 37s. 6d. cash—as new—bargain:—Apply, Tremone, 14, Lilac Grove, Holme Slack, Preston.

PROPAGANDA AND EDUCATION

By Alec Murie, N.C.L.C.

To popularise and explain "Labour's Immediate Programme" thousands—and I mean "thousands"—of new propagandists are needed by the Party. Headquarters have realised this and are assisting the Local Parties in the organisation of Speakers' Training Classes. It is essential that these classes turn out well-informed propagandists who can "educate" both the Party and the Public in the "Immediate Programme" and in the theory of Socialism. It is equally essential that the best possible use be made of these speakers. I, personally, do not think that Divisional and Ward Parties make the most effective use of the expert propagandists we already have.

Too often a series of propaganda meetings taken by expert propagandists, degenerates into a mere gramophone recital of the more obvious of our slogans and watchwords. Having heard one, you have heard them all. Now that is not the fault of the speaker. The fault and the remedy lies with the organiser of the meetings. Too much general propaganda should be avoided. The programme for a series of meetings should now be planned to give a lasting education in the theory and practice of our Movement.

Look at this programme recently completed by the Shrewsbury Divisional Labour Party in conjunction with the National Council of Labour Colleges.

1. Socialism in History.
2. Can Capitalism Survive?
3. Socialism and Human Nature.
4. The Case for Socialism.
5. Labour and Local Government.
6. Labour and the Banks.
7. Fascism and War.
8. Socialism and Peace.

There you have an outline of the Movement's history and ideals; an attack on all the points on which we are challenged; and an explanation of the more obscure details of our policy. A good speaker relishes the opportunity of rounding off his speeches. An audience appreciates and applauds the change from the much too common airy and evangelical propaganda to a reasoned explanation and exposition of our essentially reasonable case.

OUR LITERATURE PAGE

500,000 IN 6 WEEKS

"Your Britain" has established a record sale for any Party publication at any time, and as half the first edition of a million copies has been disposed of, some of the methods used to create sales in various parts of the country should be interesting to our workers everywhere.

The fact that (with few exceptions) "Your Britain" is being sold, not given away, is a tribute to the attractiveness of the publication, and the willingness of our members to act as literature sellers if they are organised for the purpose.

It should be realised that the reasonable price, large profit margin for local Parties, and outstanding attraction of the publication is based on an edition of *one million copies*.

The whole Movement looks forward to "Your Britain No. 2" or a similar publication. Let us make certain that a million copies of the first edition is disposed of by Christmas, 1937.

The following list shows the quantities sold at meetings, on canvass, and door-to-door during *Crusade Week* only. The list is taken at random to show that a determined effort will sell pamphlets in any type of constituency, industrial, dormitory and rural

Newport (Mon.) sold 3,000 "Your

Altrincham	...	...	750	and 200 other pamphlets
Chelmsford	...	...	600	
Chingford	...	...	1,000	
Windsor	...	...	700	
Eye (Suffolk)	...	...	1,000	
St. George's, Westminster	...	...	650	
Central Leeds	...	...	900	and 250 other pamphlets
South Shields	...	...	1,000	
Derby	...	...	1,500	and 1,600 other pamphlets
Halifax	...	...	1,143	pamphlets
Barrow	...	...	1,260	pamphlets
Enfield	...	...	1,000	(door to door only)
East Ham North	...	...	1,350	do.
Hemsworth	...	...	2,450	
Walthamstow East	...	...	1,300	

Britain" in the week. This wonderful record is just beaten by King's Norton Divisional Labour Party, who sold 3,500 "Your Britain" in eight days.

Maryhill Divisional Labour Party (Glasgow) sold 1,540 pamphlets and tried out several ideas mentioned on the original "Your Britain" circular sent from Head Office.

They tried the cinema queues with great success, getting two or three members to stand in the queue and start off the buying when sellers came round. The other people down the line soon followed their example. We congratulate Maryhill on studying so closely the psychology of selling. Maryhill cheerfully gives details of their sales on Sundays outside a big Glasgow cemetery! One member sold 60 copies of "Your Britain" in 1¼ hours!

Our Literature Secretary at Luton organised sales outside the Luton Football Ground and sold 300 copies during the Saturday afternoon.

All the methods outlined can be tackled in greater or lesser degree anywhere in Britain.

If your Division has sold 1,000 copies you have done well—but at least 20,000 people in your area have not yet seen the finest political publications ever issued.

Let us continue the good work and dispose of a million copies by Christmas.



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BRING 'EM BACK ALIVE

Recapturing the Lapsed Member

By JACK CUTTER

In all our work to surpass our quotas in the 100,000 New Membership Drive, let us give a thought to bringing back the lapsed members to the fold.

Every D.L.P. has a goodly number of them and it is worth some trouble to contact with them, not only for their renewed membership, but for their renewed service to the Party. A lapsed member left alone can be a nuisance, for he goes about in a disparaging mood, enlarging on his reasons for leaving us and making it clear that he was the hero of the episode—the man who stuck to high principle when all around seemed dark as night.

Such a member regained has a good effect for the Party among his associates. He justifies his action in rejoining, and the Party must emerge with credit whatever line of justification he takes.

Lapsed members fall into three main groups. Probably the largest of these is composed of "drifted" members—those who have just faded away from the books because the collector for the district gave up and another was not forthcoming until the member had lost the habit of paying, or took a dislike to the new collector. We have lost thousands of perfectly good members through removals and the failure to trace the new address. Frequently when the collector in the old district does secure the new address and hand it on to the Ward concerned the member is never called on because his new home is in a district not yet covered by the collecting organisation.

The second group consists of the "Lefters" and the faint-hearts. The "Lefters" are those who staged a fade-out either because they were more attracted by swashbuckling politics and methods adopted by groups on our Left, or because they discovered a grouse against the Constitution or Rules of the Party. The Fainthearts are those who became discouraged, generally as a result of 1931 and its

aftermath, and adopt one of two attitudes. Either they say, with savage pomposity: "The workers are not worth fighting for. Let the fools stew in their own juice!" Or they adopt the tired old pioneer pose and, with an air of kindly resignation, say: "Aye, I've done my whack for the Socialist Movement. It's time some of the young 'uns had a go at it."

The third group is made up of those who were persuaded to vote "National" in 1931 and either left us of their own accord or were excommunicated with bell, book and candle.

I submit that it should be part of our membership campaign to try to get most of those members back again, and they should have a special approach. The best method, of course, is the personal call on each one, but most of us have not the time or man-power available, and the next best thing is the well-tryed "Write and Call" method.

Because of the varying reasons for leaving the Party, one draft letter will not do for all of them, but if you group them roughly into the above groups and prepare a letter suitable to each group, they can be effectively covered.

The following draft letters are submitted as being generally suitable and you are welcome to use them, suitably amended to fit your own local circumstances.

Suggested Draft Letter for the "Drifted" Member (Group I)

Dear Comrade,

It is some time since we lost touch with you as a member of the Labour Party, but, for the sake of old times and old associations, we are writing to you because we are not prepared to lose touch with old friends.

We have been wondering just why you have left the Party and if there is anything we can do to have you back again with us in the fight. We know you have all the instincts of a

rebel against social injustice—all our own desire to combat privilege, prejudice, and poverty, and it may be that we have lost your active support through some small reason which we can put right. Ours is a voluntary organisation and sometimes we have lost contact with good members because the spare time of those who work with us is not sufficient to cope with the task.

We would like you to rejoin the Party, not only because we miss your help, but because we are working hard to double the Party's membership, influence and power, and it is the greatest possible encouragement to see old colleagues lining up with us again.

Our opportunities as a Party have never been greater; the world's need of our policy has never been more obvious and urgent. Surely we can agree to work together again in unity to grasp those opportunities and to ensure success for that policy. We offer you the hand of comradeship and hope you will link up once more with the Labour Party.

We enclose a copy of our latest publication, "Your Britain," which outlines Labour's Immediate Programme and indicates the vigour and initiative of the Labour Party nowadays. We want you with us in our work.

We shall be delighted to see your signature on the attached form and enclose a stamped addressed envelope for your convenience in returning it.

With all good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

The Executive Committee,

Labour Party.

To the Executive Committee,

Labour Party.

Dear Comrades,

I have received your letter, and, being in complete agreement with the Principles, Policy and Constitution of the Labour Party, would like to become an Individual Member (or would like to resume my membership).

(Signed)

Address

Suggested Draft Letter to ex-Members lost through Removal (Group I)

Dear Comrade,

When you moved from your old home to your present address we were

unfortunate enough to lose touch with you. We are very glad to have found you again and hope to renew the old associations which we valued very much.

You will be glad to hear that the local Labour Party, like so many more throughout the country, is on the move and is successfully building up its strength for the big jobs ahead of us. We cannot afford to lose your help and comradeship, and will be delighted to welcome you back to active membership of the Party.

(Here insert name of new Ward, name and address of Ward Secretary, name of collector, and day and time when he or she will call.)

When our collector calls he will bring you a copy of our latest publication, "Your Britain." This will tell you much better than we can in this letter what we are out for. We feel sure you will be inspired to give us a hand again when you have read it.

Meanwhile, all good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Group 2—Gang Warily!

Needless to say, you will have to be wary if you decide to approach the "Lefters" in Group 2. Obviously you cannot approach those who have come under definite Communist influence, and the only people in this group you can deal with are those who, after leaving us, have wandered about unattached to any other political body and whom you feel would be better back in the Party. Some Parties have large sections of this type, and the following letter might be a useful basis:

For Group No. 2

Dear Comrade,

We believe you like straight talking and will appreciate a direct argument without frills. Hence this letter from the local Labour Party.

It is now some time since you ceased active membership of the Party, and we want you to reconsider your position and see if you can rejoin and get into the front line with us again.

We believe you left us because you were dissatisfied with either the policy or the constitution of the Labour Party. We think that, for the sake of old times, we can put this question to you without offence:—

With which are you most dissatisfied:—

(a) A detail of the Policy or Constitution of the Labour Party,

or

(b) this futile Government and the whole rotten system it upholds?

We believe that your healthy dissatisfaction with the latter is more to you than a grievance against the Party, and we ask you in all comradeship to take up the fight again and help to increase the strength, influence and fighting force of the Labour Movement.

At the unanimous request of the whole Movement the Party has adopted its short-term policy to be operated by the Labour Government when we win its majority. We enclose our latest "mass appeal" pamphlet, "Your Britain," which outlines the policy. It may not be all you desire, but, to be honest, is it not a pretty good slice of Socialism to accomplish in five years? Could any Socialist force do more, and when it has been accomplished, will we not be justly proud?

Come, then, and, forgetting dis-appointments, give us the vigorous help we miss so much. Sign and post the attached form in the enclosed envelope and we will be delighted to renew our active comradeship in the only fight that matters.

Yours sincerely,

Executive Committee,

— Labour Party.

To the Executive Committee,

Labour Party.

Dear Comrades,

I have received your letter and have decided to renew my membership of the Labour Party, accepting its Principles, Policy, and Rules and Constitution. I am not a member of any other political party or group ineligible for affiliation to the Labour Party.

(Spaces for signature and address.)

And now we come to Group 3, the "ex-Nationals." There may still be some Simon Pures on your local E.C. who will want to have "no truck with traitors," but probably you can persuade them into a more reasonable frame of mind. From whom is to come our majority if not from masses of voters who voted "National" in '31? Is it not amazing that some of the people who denounce the "spirit of

hatred and revenge" which dictated the Versailles Treaty (for instance) should show precisely the same spirit in their own affairs. We make whoopee every time our vote increases at the expense of the "National" poll, and if we are glad of their votes we must be glad of their membership. So jump hard on anyone who wants to sulk in perpetuity and objects to a direct approach to Group 3. Tell him you are not prepared to wait for the undertaker and the midwife to change the personnel of the Registers. We want that majority now!

Here is my suggestion for a letter to Group 3

Dear Comrade,

Time marches on and it is hard to realise that it is nearly a decade since you were a member of the Labour Party. We remember with pleasure the work we used to do together, and now, when we are daily enrolling new members who have never previously belonged to the Party, we would like to extend the hand of friendship to old colleagues and welcome you back into membership.

Labour's Short-term Policy cannot fail to have your support, as it embodies all the objectives for which we strove in days gone by. We enclose a copy of our latest publication, "Your Britain," which outlines Labour's Immediate Programme and which, we submit, reflects the vigour and initiative of the Labour Party in 1937.

We can win a majority for that policy if, in addition to the new supporters we are gaining, old friends like yourself will bring their help and influence to our side.

Please think the matter over, and if you sign the appended form and return it in the enclosed stamped addressed envelope, you can be assured of a hearty and comradely welcome to the Labour Party.

Yours sincerely,

(Here append suitable application form.)

It is probably needless to add that when lapsed members have returned they should be welcomed and at once made to feel at home, with no recriminations and no raking up the past. Submit to them an outline of future plans and give them a chance of playing their part in them.

SPECIAL NOTICE

Local Labour Newspapers

In our November issue we shall publish a complete list of *current* Labour Local Newspapers — weekly, monthly or occasional, together with all ascertainable details of same. This list will be revised quarterly and be republished four times a year.

The co-operation of our readers in securing the accuracy of this list is earnestly requested. Local Editors are also requested to see that the "Labour Organiser" is placed upon their mailing list.

LOCAL NEWSPAPER MEMS

We have received a copy of the "Chingford Advertiser," a local Party publication in the Epping Division. The "Advertiser" is a sixteen quarto-page production, with quite a lot of news, and of more than usual interest. It also carries what would seem like a good paying advertisement revenue. The paper has been successfully run for some years.

The "Leeds Weekly Citizen," of which copies from time to time reach us, is one of the best established among Labour's limited weekly newspaper output. It is sold at one penny, the pages being of the same size as "Forward." The copies which have reached us have been invariably interesting and well edited, and the pages carry a home interest as well as a propaganda value. Not so many Labour newspapers have had so long a life, and we send our good wishes to the "Leeds Citizen" with a hope that its power and influence will shortly win back that majority on the City Council which Labour ill-deserved to lose two years ago.

The Plymouth Labour Party recently started the publication of an eight-page

monthly known as the "Plymouth Labour News." The paper has had a good start, and, in a corner of the country which has been the happy hunting ground for Labour's newspaper opponents, the "Plymouth Labour News" should prove of tremendous assistance in rebutting misrepresentations and presenting Labour's case. The coming Municipal Elections will be a test of its power, and we shall confidently look forward to Plymouth results.

London Labour has won a deserved place in the esteem of Provincials for the up-to-dateness of its election and propaganda literature. The forthcoming Metropolitan Council Elections will no doubt produce an even better crop, though the samples which have yet reached us are scarce.

Islington are to be congratulated on the issue of a pamphlet "What Labour Has Done For Islington," priced at one penny. We suggest there is yet time for some of our Provincial Parties to get hold of this pamphlet, which is published by the Islington Borough Labour Party and Trades Council, 295, Upper Street, London, N.1. The pamphlet is illustrated and consists of 16 pages and coloured cover. The summary of "What Labour Has Done," and "What Labour Will Do" on pp. 15 and 16 is something to clinch an argument on many a street corner. We hope our readers will take the tip and that there will be copies for sale.

"A Proud Record of Three Years of Labour Rule in Camberwell, 1934-37" is emblazoned on the front of a less ambitious publication from Camberwell, though the record is just as proud and quite as heartening and useful as is Islington's.

Camberwell puts forward its record and case in a rather novel form of illustrated folder, and here again we suggest that there is ammunition for use outside the immediate battle ground. Our readers who ask for copies of this booklet should send a postage stamp to Mr. J. H. Round, J.P., "Lansbury House," 41, Camberwell Grove, London, S.E.5. Incidentally, we are glad to note that our old comrade J. H. Round has recovered from his recent illness.

Of interest to EVERY Labour Party

SHOULD LABOUR AGENT BE EMPLOYED BY HEADQUARTERS?

Pros and Cons of a Far-reaching Proposal

A subject which is agitating the minds of the members of the National Union of Labour Organisers and Election Agents and of others at the present moment is whether or no it is desirable or practicable that the employment of constituency agents, should, in the early future, be transferred to the National Executive of the Labour Party, thus making Labour Agents the direct employees of the Party.

This suggested revolutionary change is in the early stages of exploration. There are a number of considerations in the matter, both for and against the proposal, which we will endeavour to set down. Such a change is not a matter of concern for existing agents alone, and it may well be that the whole of the constituencies in which the Labour Party is interested are concerned, certainly those constituencies which call for development and under existing circumstances are unable to secure the services of a skilled Organiser.

Labour's work in the constituencies has at all times been hampered by a tendency merely to copy the methods of its opponents, and, as its recruits have always been mainly drawn from the older Parties, it was not unnatural that this should be so. The orthodoxes in organisation have, however, often proved a brake on Labour's progress, notwithstanding that the peculiar structure of the Labour Party, its fundamental challenge to the existing order of society, and its necessities as a new Party, all demand a fresh approach to major problems in organisation as in policy.

In recent years Labour has more and more sought to carve out its own line of progress, and to develop its own methods. If therefore the Labour Party ultimately decides to put into the field one hundred or more skilled Organisers

to further develop its organisation in the country as a whole, such action might still further mark a breach with the methods of the older Parties, and contribute to Labour's own solution in finding the road to victory.

In the days of the old L.R.C. and during the war, Labour picked and chose among the constituencies for those which offered the best immediate results. In most cases a Trades Union came forward with funds to fight, and some funds at any rate for the employment of an agent. In the pursuance of this policy it was found directly after the war that the majority of Labour Agents were more or less dependent upon the Trades Unions for employment, and most were directly employed by a Trades Union.

Early Problems

The Labour Party's constitution of 1918 and its new policy of development, aided also by the trade boom of the following years, led to the appointment of a number of other agents, many of whom were employed by constituency Parties. By 1920 a situation of chaos had arisen. Half-a-dozen different forms of employment and numerous sets of scales and conditions of service were in existence, and salaries ranged from £2 per week to £300 and £400 per year, while in no sense could it be said that there was any method in the appointments made, any recognised means for the selection of fitting men, any degree of permanence for the agents, or any regard for the interests of the Party as a whole.

In 1920 Labour Agents asserted themselves, and remodelled their existing Association on the lines of a Trades Union. For the first time national scales were thought of and put forward. The ultimate result was the acceptance and general recognition of a standard scale of payment, since

modified, and the development of standard conditions of service and of selection for posts. Later came the scheme for Study and Examination.

The tendency since 1920 has been all for direct employment of agents by Constituency Parties, subject to a general discipline imposed by the National E.C. and enforced through the power the N.E.C. possesses over its affiliated organisations. Traces of the older form of employment, however, still exist, but in the main the standard conditions of service have stood the test of time, and it can confidently be asserted that if those conditions were invariably carried out, and Labour Agents had a sense of further security, coupled with provision for their old age, very little might be heard of discontent from that quarter. As to whether the present system operates to the advantage of the Party as a whole is another matter.

Questions to be Answered

The earlier chaos, and the present system having each lasted approximately for one-half of our Party's political life, the present is a particularly suitable time for a re-examination of the whole position. The questions to be asked are:—

1. Does the present practice give the Labour Party a staff of competent and satisfied Agents, free to carry out the work of developing the machinery of the Party?
2. Does the present system of appointing Agents result in skilled effort being applied in those quarters where it is most needed, or where it might prove most productive?
3. Can the present system be developed as it stands so as to secure the appointment of a very much larger number of skilled organisers in the 450 constituencies at present without them, or would a change in the method of appointment and selection of constituency (for the employment of agents) bring about such a result?

Our answer to the first question must be an emphatic "no," and from our intimate knowledge of the circumstances, distribution and work of the present staff of agents we could produce overwhelming evidence to support our answer.

The incidence of an agent's appointment is to-day every wit as arbitrary as it was 25 years ago, and the major needs of the Movement rarely, if ever, enter into the consideration of where and when an agent shall be appointed. A Union or a candidate comes along with money, and a bargain is struck that an agent shall be employed. Alternatively, a constituency so develops its own resources that it sees the possibility of employing an agent, and does so. In almost all cases the agent's appointment is made in order to secure that little extra push which will win a Parliamentary seat for Labour. Not in all cases, however, for some agents are employed in Divisions where Labour could hardly lose if it tried. What then becomes of the wider interests of the Movement? the need for development in marginal constituencies, or the necessity for bringing the great field of agricultural Divisions into line with their more fortunate sisters?

Withal the fact that agents are mostly appointed in the most promising constituencies, the security of their position is not yet assured. Changes of candidate involve sudden changes in the fortunes of the local pool from which an agent's salary is drawn. Depression, such as we experienced in the last few years, gives another twist to the screw, and here the most hard-working of the agents are adversely affected, for those without any outside finance at all naturally have felt the pinch worst. Add to all this the fact that in most cases the Local Party must contribute very substantially (where it does not find all) to the agent's salary, and one perceives a direct inducement to Local Parties to throw their efforts, not into the mere building of Party machinery, but into all sorts of money-raising endeavours, perhaps improper ones, which have but little beneficial effect on the Party's prospects.

Has the Present Scheme Failed?

We give it as our considered opinion that viewed from the standpoint of the well-being of the whole Movement, the present method of appointing and maintaining agents has grave defects, and we believe that experience has shown some change to be necessary.

In considering the second question, let us note the needs of the nearly 450 constituencies without agents. One

hundred and fifty of these constituencies are winnable, given sufficient effort, and indeed if every Division employing an agent was won for Labour, at least two hundred of the non-employing Divisions must be won for Labour if a Labour Government is to be secured.

Most Parties Gain Nothing

What are the prospects of these Divisions appointing agents? For many years the number of agents has been virtually stationary, and we think there is little prospect of radical change in this respect, so that it would seem that unless a change is made Labour must continue to employ its whole staff of agents under circumstances which do not give security to those employed, confines their services in the main to the least needy constituencies, and affords them inducement to spend considerable effort in directions which are not directly conducive to Party building.

As to the third question, it may be said at once that it is possible to remove the objection just mentioned by guarantees as to an agent's salary, which would result in full productive service, but such remedy, while costing money, would not remove the other objections to the present system. Our answer to the third question therefore is that a change is desirable, and we add that if the Party care to boldly face up to the whole question a change could be made which will vastly benefit the Movement and secure that *all* its resources are directed in the most desirable channels.

Lest our remarks may have an unsettling effect on the present agents, we point out that the present-day agents may roughly be divided into two categories. There are first the older men with long and personal associations with their divisions, and to whom the Movement owes so much. In the natural order of things no less than 33⅓ of the present staff of agents will cease to be employable because of age in a few years' time. (We speak from actual figures.) The major part of the remainder are young men without long constituency ties, many with ambitions, and almost all possessed of organising ability. These facts cannot be lost sight of in any consideration of this matter.

This brings us to the crux of the

question. Could the present staff, or the major portion of it, be taken over by the Party with advantage to the Movement, and if such course be adopted, what would be the cost?

Let us state clearly that in our opinion not all the present agents could be taken over. Just as in the economic sphere, Socialist institutions live to-day side by side with Capitalist institutions, so in the Labour Party, though employment by Labour Parties is general, we have also a certain amount of direct employment by Trades Unions or candidates. It is conceivable that in any scheme for taking over the agency staff a certain amount of contracting-out would take place.

A New Plan Suggested

The practical problem is, we believe, that of taking over approximately one hundred Organisers, plus the probabilities of this staff increasing because of the demands of other constituencies to share their services.

Agents' salaries are to-day derived from three sources (1) Trades Union and Candidates' grants, (2) constituency effort, and (3) Head Office grants in aid. Far and away the major portion of salary payment is derived from the last two sources, and principally the second one.

Thus the problem becomes capable of reduction to arithmetic. If the Labour Party took over its staff of agents it might be assumed and must be assumed that source No. 1 would remain unchanged. So theoretically would source No. 2, though in practice we fear it would not be so.

The principle of employment which we suggest could be put in the place of the present one is that agents would be nationally employed and lent to constituencies on an agreement that certain payments were forthcoming, i.e., from Sources 1 and 2. Development would take place along the lines of Parties or Trades Unions who desired to appoint agents making application for the services of such and putting up a proposition regarding the amount they could contribute to central funds, the latter being responsible for the actual payment of the agent's salary. Under this plan we can visualise the possibility of agents no

onger being employed in certain constituencies, but of agents being asked for and agreed to in a number of constituencies where their services would be of the greatest value to the Party as a whole.

On the question of cost, there ought to be no mistake about it from the commencement that the charge upon national funds would be a substantial increase on present cost, and this is the fact which must be faced up to and for which a solution must be found in increased revenue if a change is ultimately to go through.

We have hinted that from source No. 2 there may be a falling off. This is because agents would be more free to devote themselves to Party development, and less in mere money-raising efforts for their own salaries' sake.

We do not believe the loss on this score would be so considerable as necessarily to frighten the Treasury of the Labour Party. The principal fact for that department to consider is that there would be a considerable demand for new appointments of agents (who have yet to be trained) and that such new appointments would almost certainly have to be subsidised to a greater extent than the present staff.

We Must Face the Cost

It is because of these latter considerations that we appreciate the possibility of financial opposition, even assuming that these proposals otherwise find favour. At the same time we are convinced that it is profoundly necessary for the Labour Party to increase its staff of agents in the country, and to find money for that purpose, and concurrently with a change in the employment of agents, there must, in our opinion, be an increase in the affiliation fees to the Party. We submit that the two changes should go together.

In recent years Labour has been asked again and again to take a wider vision, to look ahead, to plan ahead, and to think no longer in the compass of pence. Here then is a bold proposition. We ask the Movement to soberly consider all the facts, to examine the cost, and not least, to view the reward.

We believe that the change we put forward here will be ultimately found worth while to the Party. It is at least worthy of profound and detached examination.

Questions Answered Here

The Editor invites readers to send in queries of general interest on organisational and technical matters. Queries for which a reply is desired the same month, should reach us by 6th of the month.

WRITE UP YOUR CONSTITUENCY

A really excellent "write up" of their constituency has reached us from the Thornbury Division Secretary and Agent, Mr. A. G. Salmon.

This story of the Division and its Divisional Party is a readable and interesting document, which goes into all the features and facts likely to interest a Parliamentary candidate, and indeed, it is from that point of view that the matter is written.

One reads of the geographical situation of the Division, its size, industries and interests, supplemented with an analysis of the electorate from an occupational point of view. A review is given of the geographical centres, and a map showing the bus routes, main road and railways.

Next we have a record of the voting in the Division with the electorate, total votes cast and percentages in several elections worked out in detail showing exactly how Labour has fared. Follows an account of the various Labour candidates and opponents, very aptly punctuated by an extract from a recent speech by the Tory Member, who confesses that Thornbury is not an easy Division for him to hold.

It seems to us that there are other Divisions who could with profit produce a write-up of their area and its political development, not necessarily for the same purpose, but by way of the encouragement that can be given and the important facts that can be brought out.

DOCUMENTARY FILMS AND PROPAGANDA

By J. W. FRENCH, F.B.A.A., A.C.I.S. (Clay Cross)

The Documentary Film Exhibition staged for the benefit of the delegates attending the Annual Party Conference at Bournemouth afforded an opportunity for examining the possibilities of documentary films in relation to propaganda, and the Publicity Department is to be congratulated upon its attempt to bring this subject to the notice of the constituencies in such a practical manner.

The projector used at this exhibition was a DeVry 16-mm. Sound Model, and can be purchased for £135, or on a hire-purchase basis over a period of twelve months. It is an American production, and as the makers claim, is a compact model. Its portability is proved by its division into two units—the projector in one, and the amplifier and loud-speaker in another carrying case, weighing 46 lbs. and 53 lbs. respectively. We are assured that reasonable transport by car is not likely to cause injury to the apparatus.

The unit can be connected to any A.C. electric system of 200 to 250 voltage (50 cycles), and other variations can be overcome by adaptors and transformers.

As is indicated, the unit calls for 16 mm. films, which is now the recognised standard for the small film, and will hold a spool of 1,600 ft., which length should give a continuous show of about 40 minutes.

The sound unit is separate from the projector and may be used as a loud-speaker apparatus for meetings.

For film shows a screen varying from 8 ft. to 12 ft., may be used according to the size of the hall, which should prove suitable for audiences of 200 to 500 people.

The projector is not difficult to operate, and we understand a film can be changed by an expert in 30 seconds. The distributors will gladly give tuition to purchasers of such an apparatus, and we might suggest in passing that would-be purchasers would be well advised to secure the services of a young electrician for this training.

The films shown at the exhibition included one intended to convey to the novice how the film works as regards the sound reproduction. There were also shown films bearing the titles—"Nutrition," "Madrid 2," and "Changes in the Franchise," as well as a Co-operative Society production.

The one on "Nutrition" is an excellent example of a practical discussion on the question depicted in the title, conducted by Professor Julian Huxley, and containing a commentary by Mr. Herbert Morrison, M.P., upon L.C.C. activities in their efforts to prevent malnutrition.

The one on Madrid depicted most vividly the destruction of the civilian population and property by the modern bombing machine.

The film relating to the franchise was illustrative of the electoral changes during the past one hundred years, and showed how effective pictorial graphs can be.

It is interesting to know that some quite useful films are in existence, and helpful information may be obtained from the Publicity Department at Transport House.

What is perhaps of immediate importance so far as the constituencies are concerned is the possibility of hiring projectors. We understand that a number of Co-operative Societies have already purchased them, and it may be worth while Parties enquiring from the Education Committees of the London, Royal Arsenal, South Suburban, Grimsby, Scunthorpe, Lincoln, Derby, Grays, Southampton, Guildford, Tunbridge Wells, and Long Eaton Co-operative Societies, as to whether there can be any co-operation in regard to staging shows.

The National Executive is alive to this new technique and aid to propaganda, and are investigating the production of Labour Documentary films. The Co-operative Movement, realising the value of this form of publicity, has decided to spend £5,000 upon it.

We agree with Mr. Geo. Riddle, M.P., who, when addressing those in

attendance at the exhibition, said the films shown were practical evidence in support of the idea that the documentary film can play an important part in Party propaganda. His announcement that a Joint Film Committee of the T.U.C. and Labour Party were exploring the whole matter and hoped to do more than report upon it before the next Annual Conference, will be heartily welcomed by both Movements.

For effective propaganda, however, it will be necessary to investigate the question of film production, and in this there is ample room and scope for experimentation by interested members in the constituencies.

We were shown a short film made by a Co-operative Educational Committee which is was stated cost £25 to produce. We doubt this figure does not take into account a proportion of camera costs, but nevertheless, it showed the possibilities of amateur effort at a not unreasonable outlay.

If this new form of propaganda and educational activity is to become effective, it will be necessary to arrange a distributing office on behalf of the

Movement as well as call for some co-ordinating effort as regards film production.

Perhaps we may venture to express the hope that readers may be interested in this new phase of Party activity, and will investigate the possibilities in their own areas. When doing so, do not, for instance, imagine that you can compete with existing picture theatres, or detract their patrons from witnessing a Robert Taylor feature.

The problem in towns and urban districts may not be different from that of the truly rural villages in so far as the need for this new form of propaganda and educational work is concerned, but the type of film likely to attract one audience may not suit another. In any event, for purely propaganda purposes the problem will probably be more difficult than it will be in the case of the educational film for showing to Party members and voters.

The documentary film should, however, prove most helpful in preparing the electors for the acceptance of Labour's programme.

THINGS WE MUST THINK OUT

Is there a shortage of Labour Candidates? To look at the imposing list of "Possibles," issued by the Labour Party, would seem to give a negative answer to our question. But if one regards the fact that there are over 200 constituencies yet to be provided with candidates, one comes up against this query and one or two others as well.

Nobody would pretend that the balance of constituencies yet to be provided with candidates can compare in regard to prospects with those of constituencies where candidates have already been endorsed, and so, knowing the situation, the hesitancy of persons whose names are on the available list to take opportunities that are offered to them begins to call for some straight talking.

Among the candidatures which have yet to be filled there are a few, but only a few, "certs." There is considerable

competition among candidates for these constituencies. In regard to the remainder, not only is there no competition, but there are candidates still on the list who have refused invitation after invitation, always, we presume, in the hope of something better turning up.

This is a position which cannot be tolerated. We have, in past issues, referred to the fact that some candidates, having fought one or two difficult seats, get a hunch that the Party should now "provide" them with some first-class opportunity. It is not clear on whom the onus is supposed to fall, but in view of the fact that these first-rate opportunities are not available, is it right or proper that persons who have these expectations should continue to dangle their names before other constituencies, to the latter's confusion, cost and disappointment?

Could some of these people hear the remarks that are passed in Local Labour Party meetings concerning their declinations, they might feel sadly perturbed. But the fact is that the Labour Party to-day wants men and women who are prepared to take a risk, and continue to take that risk, until our Cause triumphs. There is no place for mere careerists among the candidates, and we should not be surprised to see an insistent demand arising that candidates who are not prepared to accept candidatures when offered to them should have their names removed from the circulated lists.

If the latter course was taken, we believe it would be abundantly clear that Labour is short of sufficient capable standard-bearers to go round. This need not dismay us, for we believe that in the rank and file of many Local Labour Parties are to be found persons just as capable as many of those whose inferiority complex has been less pronounced, and whose names have found their way on to official lists. The more modest men and women may need some persuasion to come forward. There are no safe seats waiting for them, but in their ranks are numbered many of those whose work has built our Movement and achieved success for it in their own localities. The wider sphere calls to-day, and that call must be answered, or the Labour Cause will be ill-fought at the next election. It is up to Local Parties to review their ranks and make appropriate suggestions, either to the Head Office of the Party or to the Regional Officers.

No consideration of this matter is adequate which does not give a thought to the possibility of improving the calibre of those who fight. Labour to-day trains its agents, and its local officers. It has not done much in the past by way of training its candidates, and a training scheme on orthodox lines is not the sort of thing to find favour either with Prospectives or the public. But we think that both the Party and the Candidates' Association could do even more than they are doing in the way of meetings of Candidates for the study of Party policy, the methods of its presentation, and

the consideration of problems confronting candidates in the constituencies. The latter matter cannot exclude consultation and association with the Agents of the Party and certain selected officers. A conflict of opinion often arises between candidates, their Parties and their election agents, simply because problems have not been thought out or discussed beforehand. We think there is a remedy for that position, and that this remedy could be applied in time.

Then there is the personal equation. The rank-and-filers whom Labour should now be after are not likely to possess that flair for the Parliamentary platform and candidature as is possessed by the older guard, who in such numbers now seem to hesitate. If the latter are to be passed over and new men and women are to be found, those who come forward have a duty to the Movement to qualify themselves. The standard of comportment in a Parliamentary candidate differs little from that of any other publicly-elected person, but Parliamentary candidatures will call for a wide knowledge of international and political affairs. Candidates must endeavour to qualify, and, moreover, it should be recognised that no person can throw his whole zeal into a Parliamentary candidature if hampered by Local Government offices and duties. Just as a person prepares for the Ministry so should fresh candidates prepare for their new commission. There are those of our readers who, taking these paragraphs to heart, might feel the call to come forward. If so, let them come and prepare for the service. Assuredly men and women of this calibre will be more fitting for the job, and more likely to achieve victory than the thrusters and the pushers who fail to take their cue when called. It seems time to call up the Reserves, and we believe that in the Reserves will be found the victors, captains and the generals of to-morrow.

There are other kindred problems facing the Movement. Labour's speaking talent is vast, perhaps inexhaustible, but how often do we find Local Parties simply shouting for speakers, and even sulking because they cannot get the person they want? Yet scattered throughout the Movement are

hundreds of thoroughly passable, and even attractive speakers, whose services are made little use of. This is not a call for the ever-pushing spokesman who wants to be heard on every possible occasion, but it is indeed a call for a consideration of that strange complex among the people which asks always for a Star speaker, and a name that draws the crowd. Why should this be? In Theatreland the top man may draw the biggest salary, but by no means is he always the best performer. It is equally so in politics. The practised speaker, of course, can always get away with it. To him belongs the art of the platform. But is the message quite so good? And is it not also true that many Local Parties trouble little whether the speaker is critical of his own Party, or even does it justice, provided a crowd is drawn?

This problem must somehow be solved. The public have long since tired of mere oratory, hence poor political meetings and lack of interest in politics. The public will listen to matter-of-fact speeches if indeed they deal with matters of fact. Facts need no pretentious presentation. They talk for themselves. If one recognises the truth of our last few sentences, is it not possible to apply them in relation to our meetings? Locals can be got who can talk facts and speak with real knowledge. Cannot more be done to train them in the presentation of facts, or to supply them with additional facts? and is there no means of getting over the supposed public taste for Star turns? Largely we think it is a matter of advertisement. One of the most successful meetings we ever attended was where a candidate, by no means an orator, advertised a meeting which would be devoted purely to answering questions. Here then is a novel method of getting a crowd and answering questions with facts.

Another method we have seen of getting the public was to advertise a platform which included practically every local person of note connected with the Party—all the Town Councillors, the J.P.'s, some of the Trade Union Secretaries, etc. All the names

were on the bills. Before we succumb to the idea that meetings are hopeless without Star turns, we should try these and other methods which may be applicable to particular localities.

One of the weaknesses concerning our speaking talent is that speakers' lists are not widely enough collected and made available in towns or in counties. Who has not experienced a situation where one had to sit down and, by an effort of mind, recall the names of those in the locality who could speak? And on what a lot of occasions really eligible locals have been forgotten or passed over in favour of someone from a distance. Speakers require practice, and our whole plea is for promising men and women to be given the chance to practise. Even the Labour Party has its forgotten thousands, and we simply cannot afford that fact to continue.

DEATH OF FRANK H. EDWARDS

We deeply regret to record the death, which took place on 27th September, of our beloved comrade, Frank H. Edwards, formerly of Bury, Lancs., and of London.

Mr. Edwards was at one time a frequent contributor to these pages. A trusty friend and a doughty opponent, he proved a successful agent, and had many years of service to his credit. His wide circle of friends were pained by his retirement two or three years ago owing to ill-health. Even in his retirement Frank Edwards remembered the readers of the "Labour Organiser" and contributed to our pages, while from time to time we received welcome messages from him.

Mr. Edwards's recent address was "Glendene," Whalley Road, Langho, near Blackburn, and we are sure that the sympathies of our readers go out with our own to his bereaved widow.

FRUSTRATION FRUSTRATED

IMPRESSIONS OF THE BOURNEMOUTH CONFERENCE

By JACK CUTTER

At first sight Bournemouth seems to have a Borough Council with a "Frustration complex." Notices telling residents what they must not do are all over the place. "No Parking," "No Free Bathing," "No Entry," No this, No that, until, when one sees the Borough's Coat of Arms, one is surprised to find that the Civic Motto is not: "You can't do that there 'ere."

This impression is soon dispelled, however, by the real friendliness of the place and there must be something in its claim to have a wonderfully curative air, for Bournemouth Conference certainly cured all the internal ailments the Labour Party was supposed to be suffering from.

Eugene Debs once said that Socialism was based on pure logic and was the supremely logical political creed. Maybe, but if you look for logic in the way the British Labour Party handles its affairs you will search long with negligible results.

Who, for instance, acted as spokesmen for the theory that the Party must wage ceaseless class war, and, because the workers were straining at the leash, must link up with the revolutionaries of the extreme Left? Was it a docker, a miner and a weaver, straight from the wharf, mine and mill? Not on your life! First the son of a Peer of the Realm, a learned barrister Knight, then a capitalist industrialist, and then a professional political theorist!

And the proletariat—the dockers, miners and railwaymen—listened carefully to their arguments and voted them down with a bump so decisive that it seems there is little more to be said about it.

Lest anyone still holds the view that the block votes of the Trade Unions "frustrate" the desires of the Divisional Labour Parties, an examination of the vote for the "United" Front will speedily disillusion them, for when the figures are carefully examined it is seen that the D.L.P.s voted against C.P. "Unity" in the ratio of five to one, and without the assistance of Trade Union block votes the proposal

would have cut a sorry figure indeed.

Here are the facts:

The "United" Front proposals secured a favourable vote of 331,000 and the vote against them was 2,116,000. The minority included the following Trade Union votes:—

N.U.D.A.W.	137,000
Shop Assistants' Union ...	40,000
Dyers, Bleachers and Textile Workers	39,000
Furnishing Trades Association	2,000

These total 218,000, and to them must be added a part of the 39,000 votes of the Woodworkers, which were split. The estimates of the portion of this vote which went in favour of the "United" Front vary between 30,000 and 39,000, so if we estimate that the vote was equally divided we cannot be charged with over-estimation. This adds 21,000 and brings the total T.U. vote to 239,000.

The number of D.L.P.s, Borough Parties and County Federations actually represented at Bournemouth was 334, and their total muster of votes was 502,000. Thus the following significant table emerges:—

Total votes cast for the "United" Front	331,000
Deduct the Trade Union votes	239,000

Remaining votes from D.L.P.s, etc.	92,000
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Out of a total political vote of over 500,000, less than 100,000 went in support of the C.P. brand of Unity!

Having thus registered emphatic decision on a major issue, Conference pursued its illogical, but supremely wise course and picked out two of the champions of the discredited theory and placed them on its Executive Council! It may not be logical, but it is the essence of wisdom, sagacity and brilliant tacticianship.

One is tempted to point out that the absence of logic went a little too far when the Spain vote immediately followed the Defence Policy vote and

most of those vigorous advocates of disarmed pacifism were the most enthusiastic supporters of the free passage of arms for Spain, but I won't dwell on that point. [You're in error, Jack. Pacifists do *not* support arms for Spain, or for anybody else.—Ed., "L.O."]

With all its apparent contradictions, Bournemouth Conference was undoubtedly the best for a decade and a real tonic to the Party. It is significant that most of the references to us made at the concurrent Tory Party Conference at Scarborough were abusive references, devoid of reasoned argument. It is a most healthy sign when our opponents hurl abuse at us. It shows their fear and indicates their chagrin at the commonsense of our decisions.

Real confidence has returned in full measure to the Labour Party. The full implications of the Immediate Programme have reached the consciousness of the Movement; the Crusade week took them into a wider field and Bournemouth swept away internal troubles, showing the country and the world a well-led, united political force, capable of taking power to-morrow and only too eager for the chance.

We heard a lot about "frustration," but only on the first day. Let us hear the ugly word no more, and go on through organisation to realisation and emancipation.

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Mr. Arthur Woodburn

The Executive of the National Council of Labour Colleges has elected Mr. Arthur Woodburn (Scottish Secretary of the Labour Party) as the organisation's President.

Mr. Woodburn has been closely connected with the work of the Labour College Movement for very many years, and has been the Hon. Secretary of the Scottish Division of the N.C.L.C. for about twelve years.

Mr. J. Martin, of Manningtree, a prominent member of the National Union of Railwaymen, has been elected Vice-President.

In addition, Mr. R. Briscoe, who has recently been lecturing for the Royal Arsenal Co-operative Society, has been appointed as the Liverpool Organiser of the N.C.L.C., and Mr. G. Beggs, of Glasgow, has been given a full-time winter appointment as lecturer.

The N.C.L.C. now has fifteen full-time lecturers, and over 250 part-time lecturers engaged in evening class work alone, together with a larger Postal Courses Department than any working-class educational body in the world. This organisation now runs 800 classes with 20,000 students each year. There are 8,500 Postal Courses students.

Other activities of the N.C.L.C. include lectures by post, week-end and summer schools, Trades Union Branch lectures, lectures to strikers and the unemployed, and public lantern lectures, while it publishes numerous textbooks and pamphlets.

Alderman Alf. James, J.P.

Congratulations to Ald. Alf. James, J.P., of Manchester, who has just completed his 25 years of service as a Labour Party Agent. We are interested to note that the Miles Platting Labour Party, to which our friend has given such long service, is to hold a dance in Mr. James' honour on Saturday, October 23rd.

We are sure our readers will join with us in wishing long life and good health to one who is almost the oldest Agent in the Party, and who has rendered such yeoman service during his years of office. Ald. James was, by the way, the Secretary of the National Association of Labour Registration and Election Agents (now National Union of Labour Organisers and Election Agents) from 1916 to 1920, on which date a reorganisation took place.

Readers who write to us for a suitable draft of letter to be sent to new voters cannot do better than take a tip from the following, which is an excellent example from Newport, where membership has long passed the 3,000 mark.

PERSONAL AND PRIVATE.

*To all who are Registered
as Voters for the first time in Newport (Mon.).*

DEAR FRIEND,

May we take an early opportunity of offering you our heartiest congratulations on the privilege and responsibility you now enjoy of being able to record your VOTE.

Few realise the inestimable privilege and great power that this brings, and many are most casual as to its use.

We feel sure, however, you desire to use your Vote intelligently that it may be of the greatest service in promoting your Town and Country's Welfare, and for the Benefit of Humanity. It is in that spirit we venture to write you.

It is of paramount importance that the issues concerned are clearly understood, and that you are NOT misled into voting for that which is really opposed to your desires, while under the belief that you are voting for them.

There are, at the present, only two principal alternative Parties before the Country and this Constituency, claiming your Vote :—

(1) The so-called "National Party."

(2) The Labour Party.

The Labour Party issues its Programme and has an agreed Policy, which each of its Members is pledged to support, and for which it will give effective expression as soon as a majority is secured in Parliament. Our opponents have NO agreed Policy and issue NO Programme.

Briefly, the LABOUR PARTY stands for the principle "That the resources of a Nation should be used in securing the greatest benefit for ALL its inhabitants" (NOT—please note well—only for the benefit of the Labour Party, as our opponents suggest). This organisation and control of our National Resources for the advantage of all by the Government is SOCIALISM.

This Policy is already carried out in Practice in our Army, Navy and Air Forces—Education—Local Government Services, Roads, Water Supply, Post Office, Broadcasting, our Great Social and Health Services, Old Age Pensions and a hundred other activities.

The LABOUR PARTY desires to extend such services to other things, the wealth of which is at present monopolised and mainly controlled by the few for their own benefit. In particular, the Public Ownership and control of the Land, Banking and Finance, the Key Industries of the Country such as Coal, Gas and Electricity, Transport, Iron and Steel, that they may be used for the benefit of the whole community.

The Party also stands firmly for "Holidays with Pay" and a maximum 40 hour week without loss of wages. A more detailed copy of "Labour's Immediate Programme," will be sent you free on application.

We feel sure you will examine this matter carefully and impartially, and give your Support and Vote for the Policy which will consider primarily the welfare and happiness of all the inhabitants of our Country in practice as well as in precept.

A few Leaflets are enclosed which may be of interest to you. Should you desire to join the Labour Party, a form is enclosed, which only needs your signature.

With all good wishes,

Cordially and fraternally yours,

(Signed) R. DAVIES, *Chairman*,

R. H. LEY, *Secretary & Agent
of the Newport Labour Party.*

P.S.—Our Prospective Parliamentary Labour Candidate,

Mr. PETER FREEMAN, is in attendance at our Offices (84, Stow Hill) frequently (except during the holiday periods), and will be most pleased to see you and have a talk about the matter, or an appointment for him may be made with the Secretary.